

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer, wherein the steel has a ferrite grain structure having an average grain size of 3 μm or less and the nitride layer is formed on a surface of the steel.

2. (Original) The ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in claim 1, wherein grain growth at a time of nitrifying is suppressed by precipitation of carbide or addition of a solid solute element or both of them.

3. (Currently Amended) The ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the amount of C is 0.01 mass % or more.

4. (Currently Amended) The ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1, 2, or 3~~ claim 1, wherein at least one element selected from a group consisting of Mn, Cr, Mo, Ti, Nb, V and P is added.

5. (Original) The ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the amount of Mn is 0.4 mass % or more.

6. (Currently Amended) The ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in claim 4 ~~or 5~~, wherein the amount of P is 0.035 mass % or more.

7. (Currently Amended) The ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in ~~any one of claims 4, 5, or 6~~ claim 4, wherein the steel is a carbon steel and the total amount of Cr, Mo, Ti, Nb, and V is 0.1 mass % or less.

8. (Currently Amended) The ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7~~ claim 1, wherein a fatigue limit is 1.6 times larger than Vickers hardness of a base material.

9. (Currently Amended) A molded part, a part, or a member which is formed from the ultra fine grain steel having a nitride layer as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8~~ claim 1.